

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 24, 26, 28, and 30 are amended, claims 12-21 and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-21 are under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 12-21 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-15, 17-19, 23-26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Davis, U.S. Patent No. 5,048,215. Claims 12-15, 17-19, and 23 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to the pending claims.

Davis discloses a front grip for a firearm. The Examiner corresponds element 30 of Davis to the claimed main body. However, element 30 is disclosed by Davis as a bottom lid for a front grip 10 for a gun 12. Further, as shown in Fig. 3 of Davis, the lid 30 is slidably removed from the front grip 10, with no disclosure of any push-fit mating between deformable protrusions and corresponding recesses. Thus, Davis at least does not disclose or suggest the claimed protective cover of independent claim 24 that covers an area on the rifle support

including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support, and a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 24 over Davis should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25-26 and 28-30 are allowable over Davis at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Crisler, U.S. Patent No. 1,795,840. Claims 12-19 and 21 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot, and thus, should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-20 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rickenbacher, U.S. Patent No. 2,038,627, in view of Leek et al. (hereinafter "Leek"), U.S. Patent No. 3,023,527. Claims 12-15, 17-19, and 23 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to the pending claims.

Rickenbacher discloses a grip for a pistol. The Examiner corresponds elements 22 or 34 of Rickenbacher to the claimed main body and elements 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, and 27 to the claimed fixing device. However, elements 22 and 34 are disclosed as a grip portion and a

flange portion, respectively. Elements 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 26, and 27 are disclosed as dowels (10, 11), lugs (14, 15), bores (16, 17), pins (18), warps (19), and lugs (26, 27), with no disclosure of any push-fit mating between deformable protrusions and corresponding recesses. Rather, metallic pin 18 having warps 19 is pressed into the bores 16, 17 of lugs 14, 15. Thus, Rickenbacher does not disclose or suggest a rifle, comprising a rifle support, a shell propulsion mechanism, screws that fix the shell propulsion mechanism to the rifle support, and a protective cover that covers an area on the rifle support including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support, and a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses. Leek fails to overcome the deficiencies of Rickenbacher, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a rifle/rifle support.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 24 over Rickenbacher and Leek should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25-30 are allowable over Rickenbacher and Leek at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

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The Office Action rejected claims 24, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crisler in view of Browning et al. (hereinafter "Browning"), U.S. Patent No. 5,778,590. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Crisler discloses a cushion pad for gun stocks. More particularly, Crisler discloses a pad 12 for a butt of a gun stock 10. The Examiner corresponds element 12 of Crisler to the claimed main body and elements 15 and 14, 17 to the claimed protrusions and recesses. However, elements 12, 14, 15, and 17 are disclosed as a pad, extensions, a recess, and a cavity, respectively, with no disclosure of any push-fit mating between deformable protrusions and corresponding recesses. Thus, Crisler does not disclose or suggest a rifle, comprising a rifle support, a shell propulsion mechanism, screws that fix the shell propulsion mechanism to the rifle support and a protective cover that covers an area on the rifle support including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support, and a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses. Browning fails to overcome the deficiencies of Crisler, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a rifle.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 24 over Crisler and Browning should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 30 and 31 are allowable over Crisler and Browning at least for the

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reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

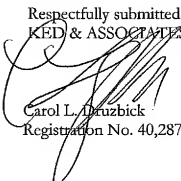
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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